

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT for Region 8
Week ending March 27, 2015

OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION

PROPOSAL TO ADD COLUMBIA FALLS ALUMINUM PLANT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST: On March 24th, the EPA announced a proposal to add the Anaconda Aluminum Company Columbia Falls Reduction Plant (aka Columbia Falls Aluminum Company), near Columbia Falls, Montana to the National Priorities List (NPL). A 60 day public comment period begins on March 26th. The site is a former aluminum smelter and has been closed since 2009. The EPA received support for the proposed action from the City of Columbia Falls, Montana Governor Steve Bullock, U.S. Senator Jon Tester and multiple community groups. Rich Mylott and Rob Parker received and responded to numerous reporters, including reporters from local print, TV and radio as well as a national metals journal.

Contacts: Rob Parker, 303-312-6664 and Cynthia Peterson, 303-312-6879

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR SHAUN MCGRATH MEETS WITH COMMUNITY PARTNER, GROUNDWORK DENVER: As part of the Region's celebration of EJ Month, Shaun McGrath, along with Corbin Darling from the EPA Region 8 EJ program, visited Groundwork Denver's local office to meet with Groundwork Denver staff, including youth employees. Groundwork Denver has been an important and longtime partner of EPA Region 8 and the March 20th meeting provided an opportunity for Shaun to learn more about their work, share information about some of the priorities that the Region is focusing on, and answer questions and engage in dialogue with the staff. Groundwork Denver's mission is to improve health and the environment through community-based partnerships and action and has received a number of EPA grants in support of its work.

Contact(s): Corbin Darling, 312-6426

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

No items to report

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

FOUR REGION 8 SMALL AND MID-SIZED METROPOLITAN AREAS ACHIEVE TOP TEN CITIES RANKING NATIONWIDE FOR ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED BUILDINGS: On March 25, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released the second annual list of the top ten small and mid-sized metro areas with the most ENERGY STAR certified buildings. Salt Lake City, Utah and Ft Collins, Colorado, are named as a top ten city in the mid-sized ranking and Cedar City, Utah, and Sioux City, Tri-State; Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota are named as top ten cities in the small-sized category. The annual cost savings is \$10.5 million and 62,839 emissions savings (MTCO2e), which is equivalent to 6,400 homes' annual electricity use.

Contacts: Patty Crow, 312-6464; Melanie Wood, 312-7006

DENVER, COLORADO, NAMED AS ONE OF THE TOP 25 CITIES NATIONWIDE FOR ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED BUILDINGS: On March 25, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released its seventh annual list of the top 25 U.S. metropolitan areas with the most ENERGY STAR certified buildings. The list demonstrates the economic and environmental benefits achieved by facility owners and managers in America's leading cities when they apply a proven approach to energy efficiency to their buildings. Denver has been on the list every year and this year it ranks ninth. In 2014, the Denver metropolitan area had 195 buildings certified with a total floor area of more than 43 million square feet, a cost savings of over \$47 million and 384,922 emissions savings (MTCO₂e), which is equivalent to 62,300 homes' annual electricity use.

Contacts: Patty Crow, 312-6464; Melanie Wood, 312-7006

Next 30 Days –

TRIBAL AIR PROGRAM MANAGER'S MEETING: Region 8's Montana office will host the Tribal Air Program Manager's Meeting on April 21-22. This year's topics will include New Source Review permitting, the proposed new ozone standard, an air enforcement overview, updates on the President's Methane Strategy and indoor air. This annual meeting allows the program managers from all Region 8 tribes that have indoor air, enforcement and ambient air monitoring programs to meet, discuss common issues and attend air related presentations given by EPA staff. While the meeting takes place in Helena, many of the presentations will be given via video link from the Denver office.

Contacts: Ron Schiller, 312-6017; Scott Jackson, 312-6107

MONTANA OPERATIONS OFFICE

No items to report

OFFICE OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

No items to report